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500.43317X00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: YAMASHITA et al  
Serial No.: 10/730,112  
Filed: December 9, 2003  
For: Electrophotographic Apparatus  
Art Unit: 2854  
Examiner: D. Ghatt

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop: Amendment (No Fee)  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 20, 2004

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application in response to the office action dated October 20, 2004. The amendments are listed below and set forth on the following pages.

Amendments to the Claims; and

Remarks are included following the amendments.